



## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

### JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

#### PASSAGE OVERVIEW

Having shown that all people, everywhere, are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 1–3), Paul discloses how a just God can justify such sinners. He confronts the false assumption that a good life, in keeping with the law, can afford salvation. Salvation cannot be earned by keeping the law on the part of those who are already under judgment as law breakers. None of us live a sinless life. How can we then be justified by a God who is sinless?

Jesus alone lived a sinless life. He laid that life down for us, thus assuaging the righteous wrath of God. As Jesus bore our punishment, we can then be justified because the debt has been paid by Christ on our behalf.

Looking back to the Old Testament, Paul reveals how even the former saints were credited with righteousness by faith, apart from their ability to keep the law. The Jewish people revered Abraham not only as the father of the nation, but also as a man who knew God. Abraham had received promises from God. He had even been credited with righteousness. So Paul explains that he had been counted as righteous before he ever circumcised his family in accordance with the law. The scriptures clearly state that he believed God, and this was counted unto him as righteousness.

The promises Abraham received preceded the law or his keeping of it. His faith in God's promise reveals that the promise itself was a result of God's unearned grace.

The truths we see in Abraham's life must be applied to our lives as well. It is by faith, as we believe in Jesus' sacrifice for our sin, that we are gifted with unearned righteousness. We are justified by faith in Jesus work alone.

As you read this week, take note of how often the words faith and believe occur. Faith is trusting in the work of Jesus on our behalf. We are justified through Jesus alone, as we believe in Him.

#### READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Romans 3:21 – 5:11

HighlandPark  
Baptist Church

#### I. The Gospel: the power of God for salvation (1:16-17)

- A. Gospel
- B. Power of God
- C. Salvation
- D. For all people – available to all
- E. Believe Salvation is effective only for those who believe.
- F. Righteousness of God
- G. From faith to faith
- H. The righteous shall live by faith

#### II. The Wrath of God: God gave them up (1:18-32)

The gospel is necessary because there is such a thing as the wrath of God.

A righteous God must address sin.

God gave them up ... (1:24f, 26f, 28f)

#### III. The Human Condition: sinner without excuse (2:1-3:20)

You've got to recognize how bad your mess is, before you can understand how good God's news is.

#### IV. The Just Justifier

Only God can satisfy and turn away God's wrath (3:21-31)

#### How does this apply to me?

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